

Asbestos

As a responsible landlord, Darlington Borough Council takes the issue of asbestos very seriously.

Hundreds of thousands of UK homes built between the 1930s and 1990s feature some building products with ACMs (Asbestos Containing Materials) and our homes are no different.

What is asbestos?

Asbestos is a naturally occurring mineral which can be found in rocks all over the world.

Asbestos fibres are strong and flexible with excellent fire proofing and insulating qualities and were commonly added to building materials between the 1930s and the late 1990s. Peak use was in 1963, and use of asbestos in the construction industry was finally banned in the UK in 1999.

Almost all buildings constructed or altered during this period are likely to contain ACMs.

The three types of asbestos which were used in the UK are crocidolite (blue asbestos), amosite (brown asbestos) and chrysotile (white asbestos).

It is not possible to tell whether a material contains asbestos simply by looking at it.



Health and Safety Executive

The Health & Safety Executive is the government body that is responsible for regulating and enforcing health and safety.

If you require further information and advice please visit the Health & Safety Executives website:

www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos



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Housing Services

Asbestos in the Home

Information Leaflet for Tenants



July 2015

Why is asbestos dangerous?

Generally, asbestos is only a risk if you disturb or damage it and cause fibres to be released into the air.

If ACMs (Asbestos Containing Materials) are in good condition and in a position where they are not going to be disturbed or damaged, then it is safer to leave them where they are and ensure that the risks are managed.

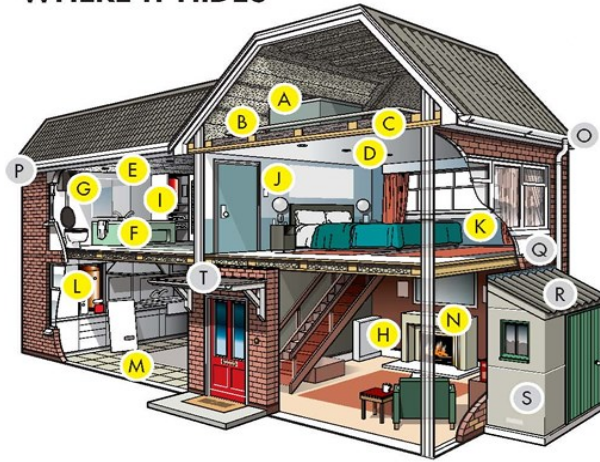
The greatest risk arises when ACMs are sawn, drilled, sanded or scrubbed. Asbestos fibres released during these activities cannot be seen with the naked eye. DIY work can result in brief but high levels of exposure.

Remember, there is no safe level of exposure to asbestos, so you should not attempt to saw, drill or sand any walls, ceilings or floors in your home without first seeking advice. You must also get our written permission before you carry out any improvements or alterations to the property.

Where could asbestos be found in my home?

ACMs might be found in roofs, claddings, soffits, windowsills, bath panels, wall panels, chimneys/flues, water tanks, floor tiles and textured coatings (Artex or similar).

ASBESTOS WHERE IT HIDES



Inside

- A. Asbestos cement water tank
- B. Pipe lagging
- C. Loose fill insulation
- D. Textured decorative coating e.g. artex
- E. AIB ceiling tiles
- F. AIB bath panel
- G. Toilet seat and cistern
- H. AIB behind fuse box
- I. AIB airing cupboard and/or sprayed insulation covered boiler
- J. AIB partition wall
- K. AIB interior window panel
- L. AIB around boiler
- M. Vinyl floor tiles
- N. AIB behind fire

Outside

- O. Gutters and Asbestos cement downpipes
- P. Soffits – AIB or asbestos cement
- Q. AIB exterior window panel
- R. Asbestos cement roof
- S. Asbestos cement panels
- T. Roofing felt

AIB = Asbestos Insulating Board

Source - <http://www.hse.gov.uk/asbestos/building.htm>

What are we doing about it?

Prior to undertaking any planned maintenance in your home, we will survey your property to identify any ACMs, if we haven't carried a survey out in the past.

We will keep survey details on our asbestos register so that we can prevent disturbing ACMs in the future as and when we carry out repair work.

Most ACMs are perfectly safe if left alone, and will probably be left in place if they are likely to remain undisturbed.

All of our repairs operatives are fully trained and equipped to carry out repairs and maintenance work safely without disturbing ACMs.

We work closely with all our contractors and staff and let them know if asbestos is present, so they take extra care when they carry work out in your home, to protect both you and them.

Generally if the asbestos is in good condition and is not likely to be disturbed or damaged when worked on or near, then it is best left in place.

This is in line with the current guidelines from the Health and Safety Executive.